

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Dougan H. Clarke
Serial No.: 10/748,755
Filing Date: December 30, 2003
For: HUB ASSEMBLY FOR AN UMBRELLA FRAME

Confirmation Number 2743
Customer Number 04219
Group Art Unit 3636
Yip, W., Examiner

2800 S.W. Third Avenue
Historic Coral Way
Miami, Florida 33129
May 19, 2006

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In response to the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed December 19, 2005, the Applicant hereby elects to prosecute the invention of Group II, namely, the embodiments of Figures 3A and 3B, although this election is made with traverse and the Examiner is respectfully asked to reconsider the election requirement in light of the comments set forth below. It is believed that the embodiments of Group II are defined in claims 1, 2-3, and claims 4, 5 and 7.

The Applicant respectfully asks the Examiner to reconsider the election requirement, and suggests that the embodiments of Figure 2 and 3A, as well as Figures 3-B and 4, may be appropriately grouped together. It is noted that the embodiment of Figure 2 depicts a secondary hub member 18. Even so, the embodiments of Figures 2 and 3-A are thought to be similar, in that they share a channel 30. The embodiment of Figure 3-A is primarily discussed at page 12, and claims 2 and 3 are believed to read on both of these embodiments. However, Figure 4 depicts an embodiment having a band 20, and is primarily discussed at the bottom of page 11 of the specification. Claim 1 can clearly be said to refer to the embodiment of Figure 4, although it is believed that claims 6 and 12 may be considered to as well, in light of the embodiment of Figure 3-B, which is primarily discussed at page 13 of the specification and described as a "split-hub" assembly. It is believed that claim 5 reads on the embodiment of Figure 3-B.

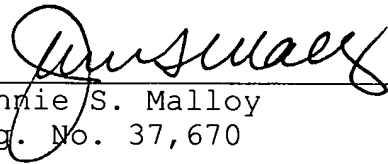
If, for some reason, the Examiner is not willing to reconsider the election requirement, then the election made above is as to Group II.

A request for a four month extension of time accompanies this response along with the appropriate fee as set forth in 37 CFR Section 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: _____

5/19/06